

## Song of the Railroads

George A. Macfarren (1813-1887)

On Sept. 27, 1825, the first railroad in England, the Stockton & Darlington, was thrown open to the public.

While every age is crowned with rhyme,
And song is ever young,
The bravest birth of later time
Must not remain unsung;
A poet shall be born to us,
For living men to hail,
Dismounted from old Pegasus
To mount the fiery rail!

When speed and joy go hand in hand, And loves are side by side, We are the sunbeams of the land On which the angels glide; The husband to his anxious wife, The friend to friendly care, The lover to his life of life On burning wings we bear!

But oft like ships of ill accurst
That sail the solid earth
On sacred parting hours we burst,
Or mar the moment's mirth;
The dearest and the longest lost
Pass by within a span
Yet know it not; of little cost
We make the heart of man!

Note from original publication: (The remaining three stanzas are not adapted to the Music; but they are here subjoined in order to preserve the Poem complete.)

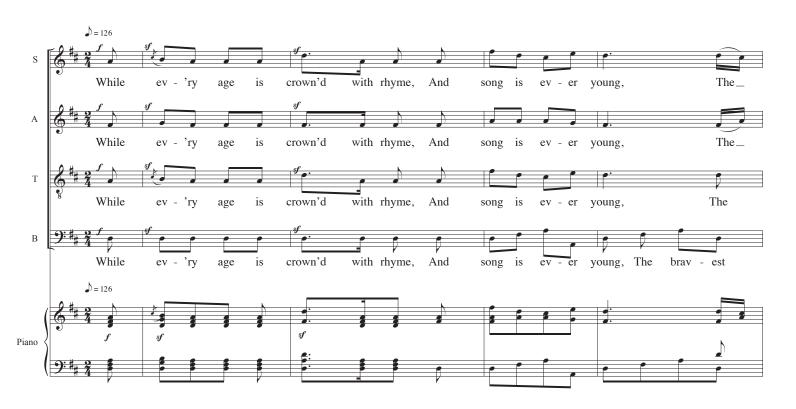
With precious freight of hopes and
We sweep the fields of space, [fears,
Decreed to dry the deepest tears,
And dim the brightest face:
A few short words writ over-night
Hundreds of miles are borne,
And scatter sorrow or delight
Far, ere the morrow morn.

Our cry is onward, onward yet—
Hard pace and little pause;
We will not let the world forget
Her nature's motive laws.
Like her we hasten day by day,
Nor rest at any goal;
The sun himself has moved, they say,
Since planets round him roll!

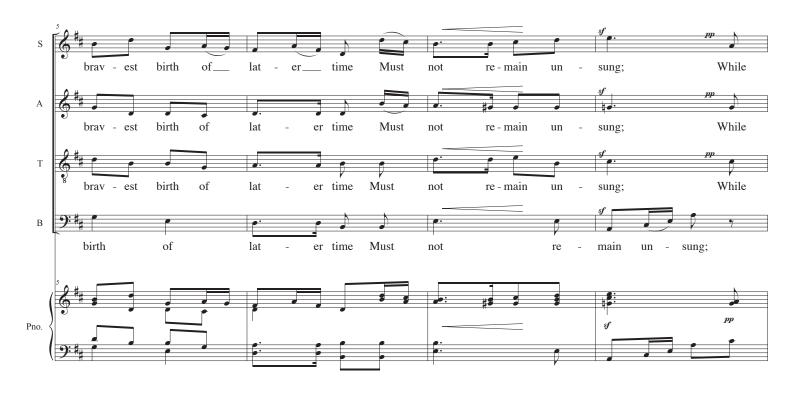
And if, when like a net we lie,
O'er many a distant soil,
And glad the traveller's mind and eye,
Without a traveller's toil,—
From mutual virtues understood
All scorn and hate shall flee,
What instruments of God and good
Be mightier than We?

## Song of the railroads

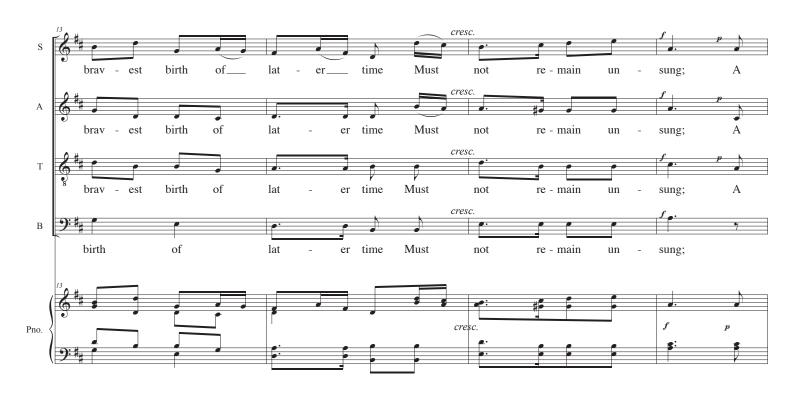
G. A. Macfarren

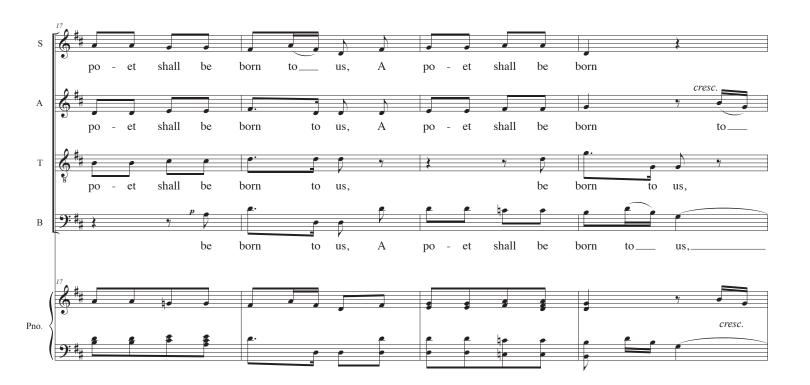








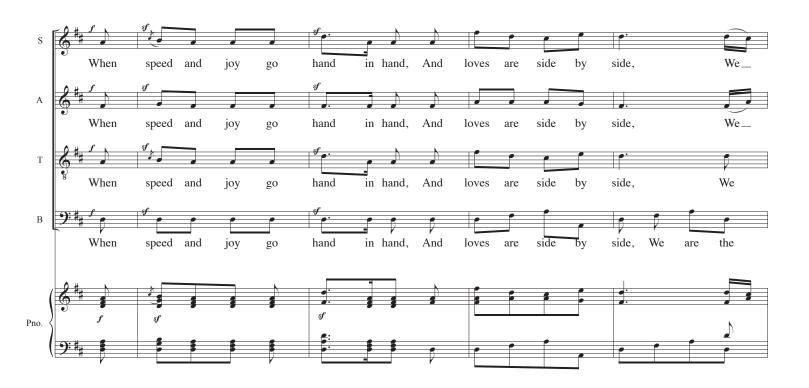


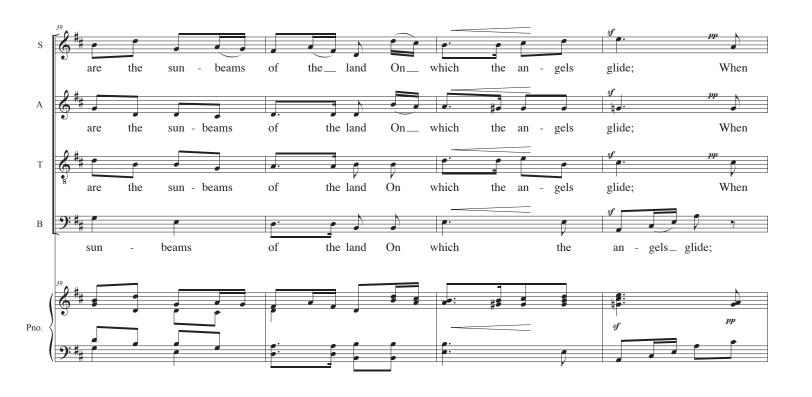


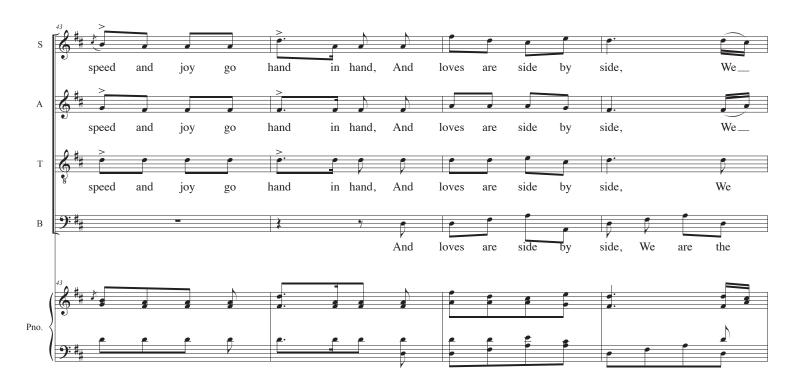


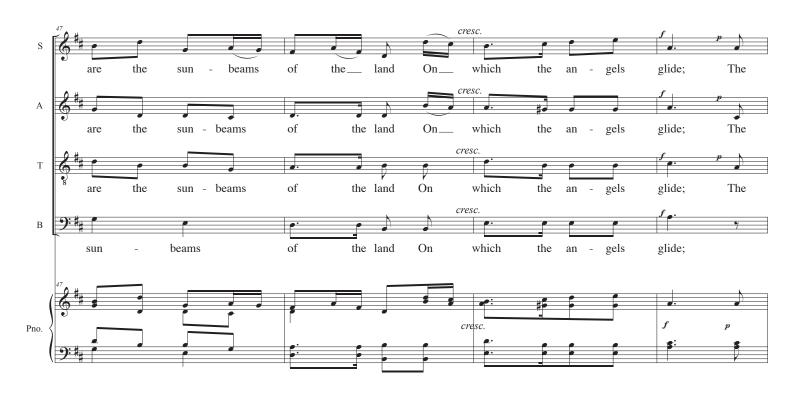


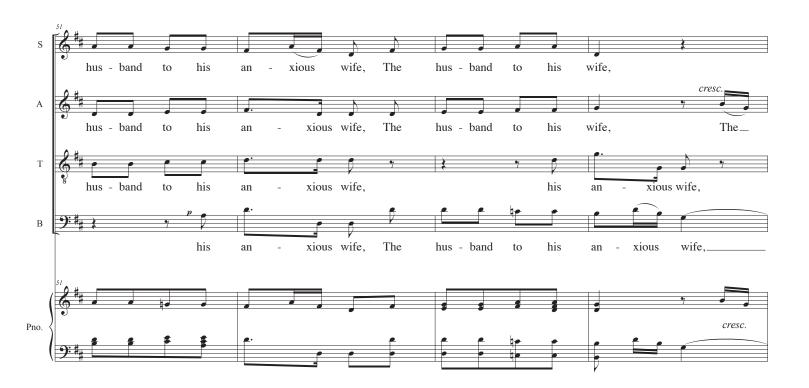


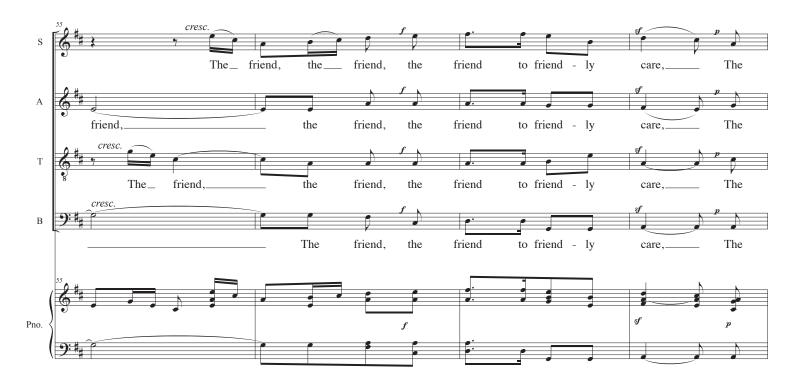








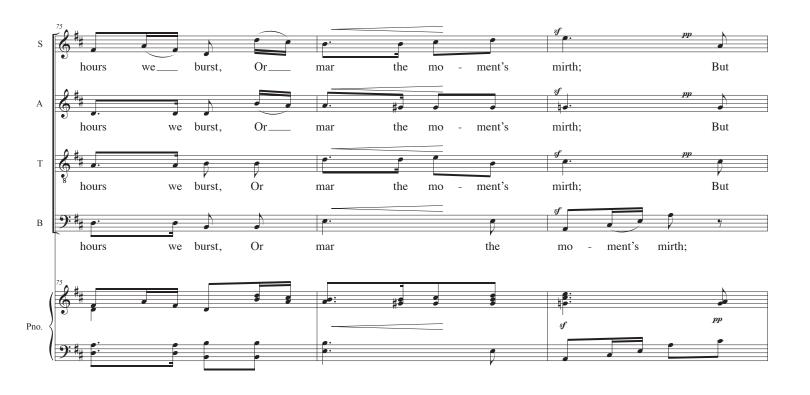




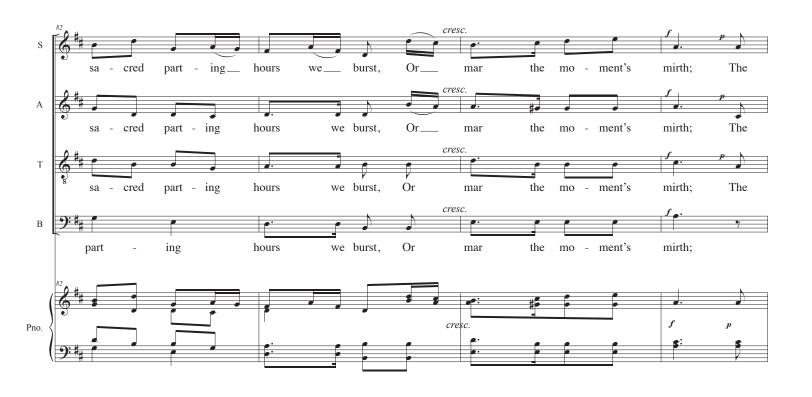


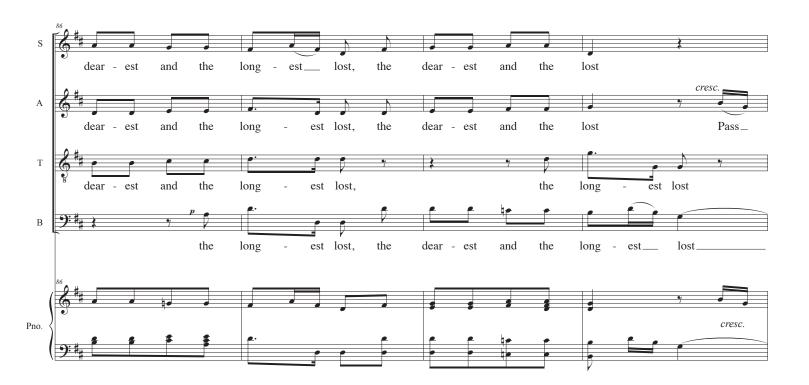


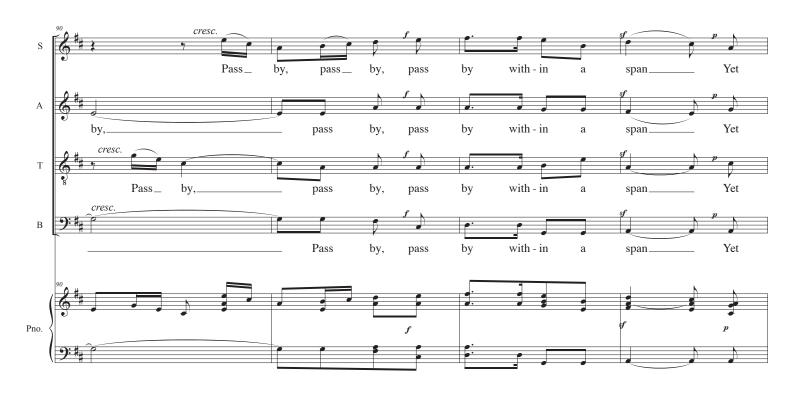


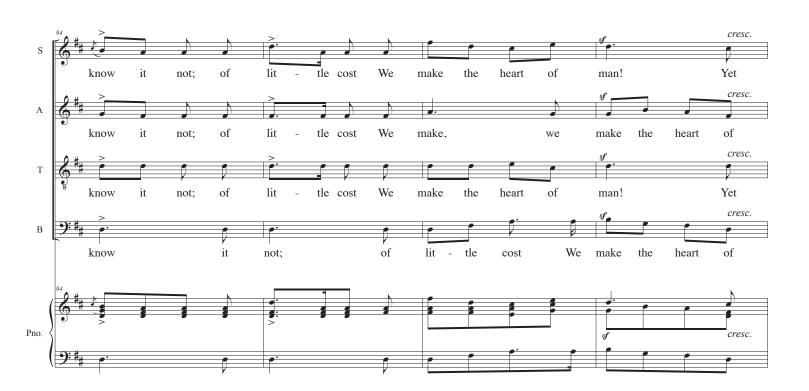














Novello, Ewer and Co. (1860-1885)

Sir George Alexander Macfarren (1813-1887) was born in London. From early youth, he suffered from poor health and weak eyesight. His eyesight continually deteriorated until he became totally blind in 1860. However, his blindness had little effect on his productivity. Macfarren began to study music when he was fourteen and, at sixteen, entered the Royal Academy of Music. Because of his eyesight, he abandoned performance and concentrated on composition. He later taught at the Academy, eventually becoming a principal. He was also appointed professor of music at Cambridge University in 1875. He was conductor at Covent Garden, London; founder the Handel Society; program note writer for the Philharmonic Society; and edited the works of Handel and Purcell. He wrote 18 operas, 13 oratorios and cantatas, 9 symphonies, and 162 songs. He was active as writer of part-songs, literature for the many amateur choirs appearing throughout the country. He was knighted in 1883 on the same day as Arthur Sullivan and George Grove. His brother Walter Macfarren (1826-1905) was a pianist, composer and professor of the Royal Academy.

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